

# THE STRUCTURE OF MATTHEW'S GOSPEL

For First Century Jews in particular, a rhetor called 'Matthew' revised and extended Mark's Gospel as a teaching manual to show that Jesus was the founder of the New Covenant as Moses was of the Old.

- Section 1: 1.1-4.25 Jesus' Genealogy, Birth and Early Years; His Baptism, Temptations and Purpose**  
(90 verses) 7:7 parts: 1.1-17,18-25,2.1-6,7-12,13-15,16-18,19-23 / 3.1-4,5-12,13-17,4.1-11,12-16,17-22,23-25
- Section 2: 5.1-7.29 Teaching Collection 1: Blessings; the Law, Prophets, Religion, Coming Kingdom and Himself**  
(111) 14 parts: 5.1-2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11-12,13,14-16,17-19,20  
14 parts: 5.21-26,27-30,31-32,33-37,38-42,43-47,48,6.1,2-4,5-6,7-8,9-15,16-18,19-21  
14 parts: 6.22-23,24,25-34,7.1-2,3-5,6,7-8,9-11,12,13-14,15-20,21-23,24-27,**28-29**
- Section 3: 8.1-9.35 Jesus' Galilean Ministry, His Person and Purpose**  
(69) 7:7 parts: 8.1-4,5-13,14-15,16-17,18-22,23-27,28-34 / 9.1-8,9-13,14-17,18-26,27-31,32-34,35
- Section 4: 9.36-11.1 Teaching Collection 2: the Mission of the Twelve and Jesus' Mission Instructions**  
(46) 7:7 parts: 9.36-38,10.1,2-4,5-15,16,17-20,21-23 / 24-25,26-28,29-33,34-36,37-39,40-42,**11.1**
- Section 5: 11.2-12.50 The Issue of Jesus' Identity: Positive and Negative Responses**  
(78) 7:7 parts: 11.2-6,7-15,16-19,20-24,25-30,12.1-8,9-14 / 15-21,22-30,31-32,33-37,38-42,43-45,46-50
- Section C: 13.1-53 Teaching Collection 3: Parables of the Kingdom of Heaven**  
(53) 7:7 parts: 13.1-9,10-17,18-23,24-30,31-32,33,34-35 / 36-43,44,45-46,47-48,49-50,51-52,**53**
- Section 5': 13.54-16.20 The Issue of Jesus' Identity: Positive and Negative Responses**  
(99) 7:7 parts:13.54-58,14.1-12,13-14,15-21,22-23a,23b-33,34-36 / 15.1-20,21-28,29-31,32-39,16.1-4,5-12,13-20
- Section 4': 16.21-19.1a Teaching Collection 4: the Church and Jesus' Instructions to His Disciples**  
(70.5) 7:7 parts: 16.21-23,24-28,17.1-8,9-13,14-18,19-21,22-23 / 24-27,18.1-6,7-9,10-14,15-20,21-35,**19.1a**
- Section 3': 19.1b-21.11 Jesus' Judean Ministry (Journeying to Jerusalem), His Person & Purpose**  
(74.5) 7:7 parts: 19.1b-2,3-9,10-12,13-15,16-26,27-30,20.1-16 / 17-19,20-23,24-28,29-34,21.1-5,6-9,10-11
- Section 2': 21.12-26.2 Teaching Collection 5: Woes; the Law, Prophets, Religion, Coming Kingdom and Himself**  
(219) 14 parts: 21.12-13,14-17,18-22,23-27,28-32,33-41,42-44,45-46,22.1-10,11-14,15-22,23-33,34-40,41-46  
14 parts: 23.1-7,8-10,11-12,13,14,15,16-22,23-24,25-26,27-28,29-32,33,34-36,37-39  
14 parts: 24.1-2,3-8,9-14,15-22,23-28,29-31,32-35,36-41,42-44,45-51,25.1-13,14-30,31-46,**26.1-2**
- Section 1': 26.3-28.20 Jesus' Celebration of the Passover, Betrayal & Trials; His Death & Resurrection; Disciples' Purpose**  
(159) 7:7 parts: 26.3-16,17-29,30-35,36-46,47-56,57-68,69-75 / 27.1-14,15-26,27-44,45-61,62-66, 28.1-15,16-20

## Notes:

The Gospel comprises 210 parts: Sections 1 to 3 consist of 5x14=70 parts; Sections 4 to 4' consist of 5x14=70 parts; and Sections 3'-1' consist of 5x14=70 parts. The final piece, number 210, mentions the three-fold name of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The rhetor's scheme appears to be symbolical, in the terms of its '3x70'. '70' of course is **the Gentile** number.

The book is an eleven section chiasm, 1-5,C,5'-1', where all the sections comprise 14 pieces, but for Sections 2 and 2', the first and the last of the five 'teaching' sections, which each comprise 3 lots of 14 pieces (many of which are smaller than elsewhere in the gospel) in an ABA' chiastic arrangement. (The similarity of the endings to the five teaching blocks is noted. In the chart above, these verses are in bold.)

Where the 14 pieces break down into seven:seven pieces, the arrangements of all the 'sevens', interestingly, are like those of Mark's 'sevens': abb'/x/abb'. (In the above chart, the middle pieces are underlined.)

It will be observed that in the genealogy, his opening Gospel piece, Matthew employs a structure of three '14s' and so declares immediately his interest in '14s' and 'threes'. Reading Matthew, as with Mark before him, requires our exploration (like it, or not!) into the meanings he attaches to his 'numbers'.

Matthew uses a numerical/numerological scheme to present his material.

For book sectional structure, this book has to be compared with that of Luke's Gospel. This is a link between these two books that has not been observed before.

The style of the writing throughout the book is similar to that found in all the Books of the New Testament; it is in the three-part writing style of ABB', in the main, where A is the introductory piece, B is the first development and B' is the second and concluding development. But in this book, variations are to be found in some of the shorter sayings, as in Sections 2 and 2' in particular, of an AA' kind and an ABB'A' kind.

The final piece of the Gospel, the 210<sup>th</sup> piece, is presented here. For pieces 1-209, see *New Testament: New Testimony (4<sup>th</sup> Edition)*.

**Part 7: 28.16-20**

28.16 - 28.20	<p><i>Οἱ δὲ ἔνδεκα μαθηταὶ ἐπορεύθησαν εἰς τὴν Γαλιλαίαν εἰς τὸ ὄρος οὗ ἐτάξατο αὐτοῖς ὁ Ἰησοῦς. καὶ ἰδόντες αὐτὸν, προσεκύνησαν, οἱ δὲ ἐδίστασαν. καὶ προσελθὼν, ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἐλάλησεν αὐτοῖς, λέγων, Ἐδόθη μοι πᾶσα ἐξουσία ἐν οὐρανῷ καὶ ἐπὶ γῆς. πορευθέντες οὖν, μαθητεύσατε πάντα τὰ ἔθνη, βαπτίζοντες αὐτοὺς εἰς τὸ ὄνομα τοῦ πατρὸς καὶ τοῦ υἱοῦ καὶ τοῦ ἁγίου πνεύματος, διδάσκοντες αὐτοὺς τηρεῖν πάντα ὅσα ἐνετειλάμην ὑμῖν· καὶ ἰδοὺ ἐγὼ μεθ' ὑμῶν εἰμι πάσας τὰς ἡμέρας ἕως τῆς συντελείας τοῦ αἰῶνος.</i></p>		
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The fact that the rhetor finishes in this way with a clear ‘Trinitarian’ statement (it does appear to be the rhetor’s and not a later addition by anyone else) does seem to imply that he began writing his gospel and continued writing it, always with this purpose in mind, to gather up all his references to **the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit**, at the very last, in this baptismal command. Another emphasis, of course, is on ‘teaching’. It is the rhetor’s reason for writing! In our hands is a manual on the Christian Faith.

The site of this final gospel scene is notably on **a mountain**. (The three synoptic gospels end in different places as each writer displays his own specific interest.) This rhetor mentions mountain sites more times than Mark and Luke: his interest, almost from the very beginning to the very end is in likening Jesus (the New Covenant maker) to Moses (the Old Covenant maker). It would appear that, in his stories of Jesus’ birth, the rhetor re-utilised popular *midrashim* on the birth of Moses. More clearly visible in the book’s structure, however, are the five teaching blocks, the rhetor’s parallels to the five (*chiastically*-arranged) books of the Old Law.

We note also that this last gospel piece tells that the New Covenant is for ‘all the nations’ and that it is given to **the eleven** to fulfil this ‘Great Commission’ of Jesus. The rhetor thus brings his *eleven* section book to a close. Additionally, the rhetor’s *three* times use of *seventy* (the Gentile number) is not to be over-looked.

Finally, we note that it is the promise of the second opening piece, of Emmanuel, *God with us*, that is fulfilled in the gospel’s final line. Many parallels exist between the opening and closing sections, as indeed within and between all corresponding sections. The Chart attached below seeks to demonstrate just a few of these with red line connections. A second (A3) version (printable in A4) is available free on my website (under ‘samples’), a first-class (not-for-sale) re-production, for which see: [www.davidgpalmer.co.uk](http://www.davidgpalmer.co.uk) .

**MATTHEW'S GOSPEL: A TEACHING MANUAL**

<b>SECTION 1: 1.14-2.6 JESUS' BIRTH FAMILY, BIRTH AND EARLY YEARS; HIS BAPTISM - HE IS 'THE SON OF GOD', HIS TEMPTATIONS AND PURPOSE</b>																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																											
Jesus' birth relative A 1:1-17	Jesus' birth - an angel, Son of David B 1:18-25	Birth was in Bethlehem; King of Jews B 2:1-6	Herod's plot to kill (King) Jesus X 2:7-12	Joseph is warned they go to Egypt A 2:13-15	Slaughter of innocents B 2:16-18	Family go to Nazareth B 2:19-23	John the Baptist - in Judea A 3:1-4	Jordan, John baptizing one coming B 3:5-12	Jesus is baptized, is 'Son of God' B 3:13-17	Jesus' Three Temptations: Son of God? X 4:1-11	Jn. in prison Jesus to Capernaum A 4:12-16	He proclaims and calls disciples B 4:17-22	J. teaching, preaching & healing B 4:23-25																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																														
<b>SECTION 2: 5.1-7.28 JESUS' TEACHINGS (1): 'Jesus' Teachings on the Mountain'; BLESSINGS FOR GOD'S CHILDREN; THE LAW, PROPHETS, RELIGION &amp; THE COMING KINGDOM</b>																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																											
3:1-2	3:3	3:4	3:5	3:6	3:7	3:8	3:9	3:10	3:11-12	3:13	3:14-16	3:17-19	3:20	3:21-26	3:27-30	3:31-32	3:33-37	3:38-42	3:43-47	3:48	3:49	3:50	3:51	3:52	3:53	3:54	3:55	3:56	3:57	3:58	3:59	3:60	3:61-62	3:63	3:64	3:65	3:66	3:67	3:68	3:69	3:70	3:71	3:72	3:73	3:74	3:75	3:76	3:77	3:78	3:79	3:80	3:81	3:82	3:83	3:84	3:85	3:86	3:87	3:88	3:89	3:90	3:91	3:92	3:93	3:94	3:95	3:96	3:97	3:98	3:99	3:100	3:101	3:102	3:103	3:104	3:105	3:106	3:107	3:108	3:109	3:110	3:111	3:112	3:113	3:114	3:115	3:116	3:117	3:118	3:119	3:120	3:121	3:122	3:123	3:124	3:125	3:126	3:127	3:128	3:129	3:130	3:131	3:132	3:133	3:134	3:135	3:136	3:137	3:138	3:139	3:140	3:141	3:142	3:143	3:144	3:145	3:146	3:147	3:148	3:149	3:150	3:151	3:152	3:153	3:154	3:155	3:156	3:157	3:158	3:159	3:160	3:161	3:162	3:163	3:164	3:165	3:166	3:167	3:168	3:169	3:170	3:171	3:172	3:173	3:174	3:175	3:176	3:177	3:178	3:179	3:180	3:181	3:182	3:183	3:184	3:185	3:186	3:187	3:188	3:189	3:190	3:191	3:192	3:193	3:194	3:195	3:196	3:197	3:198	3:199	3:200	3:201	3:202	3:203	3:204	3:205	3:206	3:207	3:208	3:209	3:210	3:211	3:212	3:213	3:214	3:215	3:216	3:217	3:218	3:219	3:220	3:221	3:222	3:223	3:224	3:225	3:226	3:227	3:228	3:229	3:230	3:231	3:232	3:233	3:234	3:235	3:236	3:237	3:238	3:239	3:240	3:241	3:242	3:243	3:244	3:245	3:246	3:247	3:248	3:249	3:250	3:251	3:252	3:253	3:254	3:255	3:256	3:257	3:258	3:259	3:260	3:261	3:262	3:263	3:264	3:265	3:266	3:267	3:268	3:269	3:270	3:271	3:272	3:273	3:274	3:275	3:276	3:277	3:278	3:279	3:280	3:281	3:282	3:283	3:284	3:285	3:286	3:287	3:288	3:289	3:290	3:291	3:292	3:293	3:294	3:295	3:296	3:297	3:298	3:299	3:300	3:301	3:302	3:303	3:304	3:305	3:306	3:307	3:308	3:309	3:310	3:311	3:312	3:313	3:314	3:315	3:316	3:317	3:318	3:319	3:320	3:321	3:322	3:323	3:324	3:325	3:326	3:327	3:328	3:329	3:330	3:331	3:332	3:333	3:334	3:335	3:336	3:337	3:338	3:339	3:340	3:341	3:342	3:343	3:344	3:345	3:346	3:347	3:348	3:349	3:350	3:351	3:352	3:353	3:354	3:355	3:356	3:357	3:358	3:359	3:360	3:361	3:362	3:363	3:364	3:365	3:366	3:367	3:368	3:369	3:370	3:371	3:372	3:373	3:374	3:375	3:376	3:377	3:378	3:379	3:380	3:381	3:382	3:383	3:384	3:385	3:386	3:387	3:388	3:389	3:390	3:391	3:392	3:393	3:394	3:395	3:396	3:397	3:398	3:399	3:400	3:401	3:402	3:403	3:404	3:405	3:406	3:407	3:408	3:409	3:410	3:411	3:412	3:413	3:414	3:415	3:416	3:417	3:418	3:419	3:420	3:421	3:422	3:423	3:424	3:425	3:426	3:427	3:428	3:429	3:430	3:431	3:432	3:433	3:434	3:435	3:436	3:437	3:438	3:439	3:440	3:441	3:442	3:443	3:444	3:445	3:446	3:447	3:448	3:449	3:450	3:451	3:452	3:453	3:454	3:455	3:456	3:457	3:458	3:459	3:460	3:461	3:462	3:463	3:464	3:465	3:466	3:467	3:468	3:469	3:470	3:471	3:472	3:473	3:474	3:475	3:476	3:477	3:478	3:479	3:480	3:481	3:482	3:483	3:484	3:485	3:486	3:487	3:488	3:489	3:490	3:491	3:492	3:493	3:494	3:495	3:496	3:497	3:498	3:499	3:500	3:501	3:502	3:503	3:504	3:505	3:506	3:507	3:508	3:509	3:510	3:511	3:512	3:513	3:514	3:515	3:516	3:517	3:518	3:519	3:520	3:521	3:522	3:523	3:524	3:525	3:526	3:527	3:528	3:529	3:530	3:531	3:532	3:533	3:534	3:535	3:536	3:537	3:538	3:539	3:540	3:541	3:542	3:543	3:544	3:545	3:546	3:547	3:548	3:549	3:550	3:551	3:552	3:553	3:554	3:555	3:556	3:557	3:558	3:559	3:560	3:561	3:562	3:563	3:564	3:565	3:566	3:567	3:568	3:569	3:570	3:571	3:572	3:573	3:574	3:575	3:576	3:577	3:578	3:579	3:580	3:581	3:582	3:583	3:584	3:585	3:586	3:587	3:588	3:589	3:590	3:591	3:592	3:593	3:594	3:595	3:596	3:597	3:598	3:599	3:600	3:601	3:602	3:603	3:604	3:605	3:606	3:607	3:608	3:609	3:610	3:611	3:612	3:613	3:614	3:615	3:616	3:617	3:618	3:619	3:620	3:621	3:622	3:623	3:624	3:625	3:626	3:627	3:628	3:629	3:630	3:631	3:632	3:633	3:634	3:635	3:636	3:637	3:638	3:639	3:640	3:641	3:642	3:643	3:644	3:645	3:646	3:647	3:648	3:649	3:650	3:651	3:652	3:653	3:654	3:655	3:656	3:657	3:658	3:659	3:660	3:661	3:662	3:663	3:664	3:665	3:666	3:667	3:668	3:669	3:670	3:671	3:672	3:673	3:674	3:675	3:676	3:677	3:678	3:679	3:680	3:681	3:682	3:683	3:684	3:685	3:686	3:687	3:688	3:689	3:690	3:691	3:692	3:693	3:694	3:695	3:696	3:697	3:698	3:699	3:700	3:701	3:702	3:703	3:704	3:705	3:706	3:707	3:708	3:709	3:710	3:711	3:712	3:713	3:714	3:715	3:716	3:717	3:718	3:719	3:720	3:721	3:722	3:723	3:724	3:725	3:726	3:727	3:728	3:729	3:730	3:731	3:732	3:733	3:734	3:735	3:736	3:737	3:738	3:739	3:740	3:741	3:742	3:743	3:744	3:745	3:746	3:747	3:748	3:749	3:750	3:751	3:752	3:753	3:754	3:755	3:756	3:757	3:758	3:759	3:760	3:761	3:762	3:763	3:764	3:765	3:766	3:767	3:768	3:769	3:770	3:771	3:772	3:773	3:774	3:775	3:776	3:777	3:778	3:779	3:780	3:781	3:782	3:783	3:784	3:785	3:786	3:787	3:788	3:789	3:790	3:791	3:792	3:793	3:794	3:795	3:796	3:797	3:798	3:799	3:800	3:801	3:802	3:803	3:804	3:805	3:806	3:807	3:808	3:809	3:810	3:811	3:812	3:813	3:814	3:815	3:816	3:817	3:818	3:819	3:820	3:821	3:822	3:823	3:824	3:825	3:826	3:827	3:828	3:829	3:830	3:831	3:832	3:833	3:834	3:835	3:836	3:837	3:838	3:839	3:840	3:841	3:842	3:843	3:844	3:845	3:846	3:847	3:848	3:849	3:850	3:851	3:852	3:853	3:854	3:855	3:856	3:857	3:858	3:859	3:860	3:861	3:862	3:863	3:864	3:865	3:866	3:867	3:868	3:869	3:870	3:871	3:872	3:873	3:874	3:875	3:876	3:877	3:878	3:879	3:880	3:881	3:882	3:883	3:884	3:885	3:886	3:887	3:888	3:889	3:890	3:891	3:892	3:893	3:894	3:895	3:896	3:897	3:898	3:899	3:900	3:901	3:902	3:903	3:904	3:905	3:906	3:907	3:908	3:909	3:910	3:911	3:912	3:913	3:914	3:915	3:916	3:917	3:918	3:919	3:920	3:921	3:922	3:923	3:924	3:925	3:926	3:927	3:928	3:929	3:930	3:931	3:932	3:933	3:934	3:935	3:936	3:937	3:938	3:939	3:940	3:941	3:942	3:943	3:944	3:945	3:946	3:947	3:948	3:949	3:950	3:951	3:952	3:953	3:954	3:955	3:956	3:957	3:958	3:959	3:960	3:961	3:962	3:963	3:964	3:965	3:966	3:967	3:968	3:969	3:970	3:971	3:972	3:973	3:974	3:975	3:976	3:977	3:978	3:979	3:980	3:981	3:982	3:983	3:984	3:985	3:986	3:987	3:988	3:989	3:990	3:991	3:992	3:993	3:994	3:995	3:996	3:997	3:998	3:999	4:000
<b>SECTION 3: 8.1-9.35 JESUS' GALILEAN MINISTRY, HIS PERSON AND PURPOSE</b>																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																											
Crowds follow, Jesus heals a leper A 8:1-4	Centurion: faith unseen 'in Israel' B 8:5-13	Peter's mother in law is healed B 8:14-15	More healed: as Isaiah prophesied X 8:16-17	Jesus leaves - possible followers? A 8:18-22	Jesus stills a great storm B 8:23-27	Jesus casts out demons in Gadara B 8:28-34	Jesus heals paralytic - friends' faith A 9:1-8	Matthew... Jesus eats with sinners B 9:9-15	Jesus is questioned on fasting B 9:14-17	Jesus heals two 'daughters' X 9:18-26	Two blind men calling: Son of David A 9:27-31	Jesus heals a deaf mute, not 'in Israel' B 9:32-34	J. teaching, preaching & healing B 9:35																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																														
<b>SECTION 4: 9.36-11.1 JESUS' TEACHINGS (2): THE MISSION OF THE TWELVE AND JESUS' MISSION INSTRUCTIONS TO HIS DISCIPLES</b>																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																											
'Workers in the harvest' are needed! A 9:36-38	'Twelve' are named B 10:1	The 'twelve' are given authority B 10:2-4	The 'twelve' sent to the 'lost sheep' X 10:5-15	As sheep among wolves A 10:16	'Warnings of persecution' B 10:17-20	More warnings B 10:21-23	As to Jesus, so also to them A 10:24-25	Do not fear: all will be told B 10:26-28	Do not fear: worth more than birds B 10:28-33	Not peace, but a sword X 10:34-36	Worthy of Jesus, take up your cross A 10:37-39	Anyone receives you: rewards B 10:40-42	Evil spirit: leaves seven more! B 12:43-45	Mother and brothers? Father's will B 12:46-50																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																													
<b>SECTION 5: 11.2-12.50 THE ISSUE OF JESUS' IDENTITY; PEOPLE - FOR AND AGAINST HIM</b>																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																											
Jn. 'Is Jesus the one?' Isaiah 35 A 11:2-6	John - more than a prophet B 11:7-15	John and Jesus compared B 11:16-19	In the Day of Judgement X 11:20-24	Father, Son and chosen: not for souls A 11:25-30	Jesus: Lord of the Sabbath B 12:1-8	Jesus heals on Sabbath: Ph's plot B 12:9-14	Jesus leaves but hosts all: Pharisee 42 B 12:15-21	Demon cast out: Ph's change Jesus B 12:22-30	Blasphemy: Spirit no forgiveness B 12:31-32	In the Day of judgement X 12:33-37	Pharisees: a sign? Jonah A 12:38-42	Evil spirit: leaves seven more! B 12:43-45	Mother and brothers																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																														